

## Message Text

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72

ACTION LAB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OIC-04 AF-10 RSR-01 /082 W  
----- 120010

R 051809 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4308

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OCON, ELAB, XG

SUBJECT: LABOR ATTACHE CONFERENCE 1973

REF: STATE 034232, STATE 060930, BRUSSELS 1854

EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO HOST CONFERENCE. FOLLOWING  
FACILITIES AVAILABLE SHOULD DEPARTMENT DECIDE TO HOLD  
THE CONFERENCE IN BONN.

1) THE EMBASSY CONFERENCE ROOM IS LARGE ENOUGH AND  
CAN BE AVAILABLE MAY 7-11 EXCEPT ON FRIDAY FROM 9:30  
TO 10:30 WHEN THE AMBASSADOR'S STAFF MEETING IS HELD.

2) BECAUSE OF LIMITED NUMBER OF LARGE HOTELS IN  
BONN AND PRIOR BOOKING, NOT POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL  
CONFEREES IN SAME HOTEL. SPACE IS AVAILABLE HOWEVER  
BY USING TWO OR MORE HOTELS.

3) EMBASSY MOTOR POOL INADEQUATE TRANSPORT GROUP  
OF THIS SIZE. RENTAL VEHICLES WOULD BE NEEDED.

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4) EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE WELCOME KITS AND STANDARD CONFERENCE MATERIALS AND LABOR ATTACHE CAN PROVIDE SOME PROGRAMMING SUPPORT. THIS OFFICE HOWEVER HAS NO AMERICAN SECRETARY AND IF SIGNIFICANT VOLUME CLASSIFIED SECRETARIAL SERVICES ARE TO BE NEEDED, ASSIGNMENT OF TDY SECRETARY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

IF BONN IS SELECTED DETAILS ON ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE NEEDED AND FISCAL DATA FOR ALL CONFERENCE COSTS.

HILLENBRAND

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FOR ENEMY, COMPARED TO A PRE- CEASEFIRE AVERAGE OF 76/190 FOR FRIENDLIES AND 92/50 FOR ENEMY. RLG T-28 SORTIES AVERAGED LESS THAN TEN PER DAY. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES WERE VERY LOW IN MOST AREAS, BUT ONE MAJOR SHELLING ATTACK SOUTH OF THAKHEK MARCH 30-31 USED 921 ROUNDS. MOST OF THE GROUND ACTION WAS CENTERED IN THE AREA SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST OF THAKHEK IN MR- III, WITH A FEW MINOR CLASHES REPORTED SOUTH OF THE PLAIN OF JARS. FOLLOWING TABLE ILLUSTRATES CONTINUING DECLINE IN OUR COUNT OF VIOLATIONS IN WEEKS SINCE CEASEFIRE:

	MAJOR VIOLATIONS	MINOR VIOLATIONS
FEB 22-28	34	189
MARCH 1-7	9	82
MARCH 8-14	111	59
MARCH 15-21	14	58
MARCH 22-28	6	59
MARCH 29- APRIL 4	5	28

(INCOMPLETE)

#### 2. POLITICAL:

LPF NEGOTIATOR PHOUN SIPRASEUTH HAS HELD DAILY PRIVATE MEETINGS SINCE MARCH 30 WITH RLG NEGOTIATOR NGON SANANIKONE IN EFFORT TO REACH AGREEMENT ON POLITICAL AND MILITARY PROTOCOLS AND FORMATION OF NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT ( PGNU). PHOUN REPORTEDLY HAS FULL POWERS FROM LPF TO NEGOTIATE IN ABSENCE OF

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PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, WHO IS SAID TO BE ILL IN SAM NEUA. TUESDAY TALKS WERE CANCELLED ON APRIL 3 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE OCTOBER TO PERMIT PRIVATE TALKS TO CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED. THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONSENSUS ON POLITICAL ISSUES, BUT TALKS APPARENTLY REMAIN STALLED BY LPF INSISTENCE ON CERTAIN MILITARY DEMANDS. CABINET DISCUSSED SITUATION ON APRIL 4, AND ON APRIL 5 SENIOR RLG NEGOTIATOR PHENG PHONGSAVAN, RATHER THAN NGON SANANIKONE, MET WITH PHOUN IN EFFORT RESOLVE DIFFICULTIES.

3. LPF INSISTENCE ON A PACKAGE DEAL IN WHICH POLITICAL AND MILITARY PROTOCOLS MUST BOTH BE FULLY WORKED OUT

AND AGREED UPON BEFORE ANY PART IS IMPLEMENTED, MAY CAUSE FURTHER DELAYS IN FORMING THE ALREADY OVERDUE PGNU. SOUVANNA'S GOAL OF SUBMITTING NEW CABINET TO KING APRIL 15 SEEMS, AT THIS POINT, MORE A HOPE THAN A CALCULATION. IF COMPROMISE IS REACHED, HOWEVER, IT MAY BE FAIRLY EASY TO SECURE MEASURE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVAL FOR NEW PGNU SUFFICIENT TO SATISFY KING'S INSISTENCE THAT CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES BE RESPECTED. VAGUE PROCEDURE WHEREBY PHENG PHONGSAVAN WOULD INFORM DEPUTIES OF AGREEMENT AND RELATED PROTOCOLS, RATHER THAN SUBMIT THEM FOR FORMAL RATIFICATION, SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED THIS WEEK BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT PHOUI SANANIKONE.

4. MOST RECENT LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE STATEMENT, INTERCEPTED BY FBIS, HEAVILY STRESSES WHAT IT CLAIMS ARE VIOLATIONS OF THE "LIBERATED ZONE" BY RLG IN THAVIENG (ROUTE 4) REGION AND AREA SOUTH OF THAKHEK IN MR- III. STATEMENT ALSO DEMANDS, IN WORDING REMINISCENT OF PRE-CEASEFIRE PERIOD, THAT "FIRST AND FOREMOST, USG MUST IMMEDIATELY STOP ALL RECONNAISSANCE AND BOMBING MISSIONS THROUGHOUT LAO TERRITORY." ALTHOUGH LPF PROPAGANDA AND NEGOTIATING RECALCITRANCE SUGGEST SAM NEUA MAY BE CONSIDERING ENHANCEMENT OF ITS BARGAINING DEMANDS THROUGH MILITARY PRESSURE, PAST WEEK'S CONTINUED BATTLEFIELD LULL REPRESENTS ENCOURAGING SIGN.

GODLEY

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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